

Message Text

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FOR OES/APT/BMP, WILLIAM WALSH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, JA
SUBJECT: NEUROPARALYSIS CAUSED BY PINKEYE VIRUSES

1. DR. REISAKU KONO, VIROLOGIST AT JAPAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, HAS WARNED THAT POLIO-LIKE NEUROPARALYSIS APPARENTLY CAUSED BY VIRUSES OF ACUTE HEMORRHAGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS (KNOWN AS APOLLO DISEASE) MAY PREVAIL IN JAPAN. THE DISEASE IS NOW PREVALENT IN TAIWAN, THAILAND AND OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO DR. KONO.

2. WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM JAPAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, DR. KONO HAS MADE A FILM ON THE DISEASE FOR PURPOSE OF ENLIGHTENING GENERAL PRACTITIONERS. HE IS ALSO APPEALING TO GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH PREVENTIVE SYSTEM INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF VACCINE.

3. THE VIRUS RESPONSIBLE FO THE POLIO-LIKE NEURAL INFECTION IS ENTEROVIRUS 70, VIRUS A ACUTE HEMORRHAGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS, WHICH WAS IN WORLD-WIDE PREVALANCE IN 1969, YEAR APOLLO 11 WAS LAUNCHED. HENCE THE NICK NAME APOLLO DISEASE. DISEASE WAS PREVALENT IN JAPAN IN 1971. RESEARCH ON APOLLO DISEASE VIRUS HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY INDIAN AND JAPANESE VIROLOGISTS FOR SEVERAL YEARS. ACCORDING TO DR. KNO, THERE HAVE BEEN 105 CASES OF INFECTION CAUSED BY APOLLO DISEASE VIRUS IN THE WORLD SINCE 1971. IN ADDITION, FIVE CASES OF DISEASE HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN TAIWAN THIS YEAR. PATIENTS ARE 20 TO 65 YEARS OLD, WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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MANY IN THEIR 30'S. MEN ARE AFFECTED MORE OFTEN THAN

WOMEN. PATIENTS INFECTED BY APOLLO DISEASE DEVELOP FEVER AND HEADACHE IN AN AVERAGE OF TWO TO THREE WEEKS AFTER INFECTION. TWO OR THREE DAYS LATER, THEY DEVELOP AILMENTS INCLUDING PARESTHESIA. THEN SUDDENLY CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO POLIOMYELITIS, SUCH AS DECREASE IN MUSCLE POWER AND PARALYSIS OF MOTOR NERVES ENSUE.

4. FEW JAPANESE PHYSICIANS ARE AWARE THAT NEUROPARALYSIS IS RIGGERED BY EYE DISEASE. THERE MAY BE CASES WHERE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN JAPAN HAVE MADE WRONG DIAGNOSIS IN EXAMINING PATIENTS AFFECTED BY NEUROPARALYSIS OF THIS TYPE.
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